

A NEW GYPSOPHILIC SPECIES OF *MIRABILIS* (NYCTAGINACEAE)
FROM NUEVO LEÓN, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Mirabilis nesomii*, is described and illustrated. It is known from only three collections, all of which were obtained from exposed gypseous outcrops at the western base of Cerro Peña Nevada in southern Nuevo León, México.

KEY WORDS: *Mirabilis*, Nyctaginaceae, México

Routine identification of plants from northern México has revealed the following novelty.

Mirabilis nesomii B. Turner, *sp. nov.*, Figure 1.

Mirabili glabrifoliae (Ort.) I.M. Johnston similis sed laminis foliorum lineari-lanceolatis plerumque 1-3 mm latisque (vs. ovatis vel cordatis plerumque 10-40 mm latisque) differt.

TYPE: MÉXICO. Nuevo León: ca. 30 km ENE of Dr. Arroyo, 8 km ENE of San Antonio de Peña Nevada, W base of Cerro Peña Nevada, large area of gypsum hills and outcrops, 1950-2050 m, 30 Jul 1983, *Guy Nesom 4704* (HOLOTYPE: TEX!; Isotype: MEXU).

Perennial glaucescent herbs 25-35 cm high. Stems erect, glaucescent, glandular punctate, pubescent at nodes, with vestiture extending between nodes in narrow bands mostly ca. 1 mm wide, otherwise glabrous. Leaves linear-lanceolate, mostly 3-8 cm long, 0.1-0.3 cm wide, glabrous or nearly so, the margins enrolled, most of the foliage confined to the lower 1/3 of the stem, the upper leaves much reduced and scalelike. Flowers on 2-3 terminal, bracteate, branches, the latter 3-10 cm long, the ultimate involucre borne on pilose peduncles 5-6 mm long. Involucre ca. 8 mm high at maturity, 5 parted, the bracts united for about 5/8 their length, pubescent with multiseptate trichomes. Petaloid structures apparently pink, ca. 10 mm high and twice as

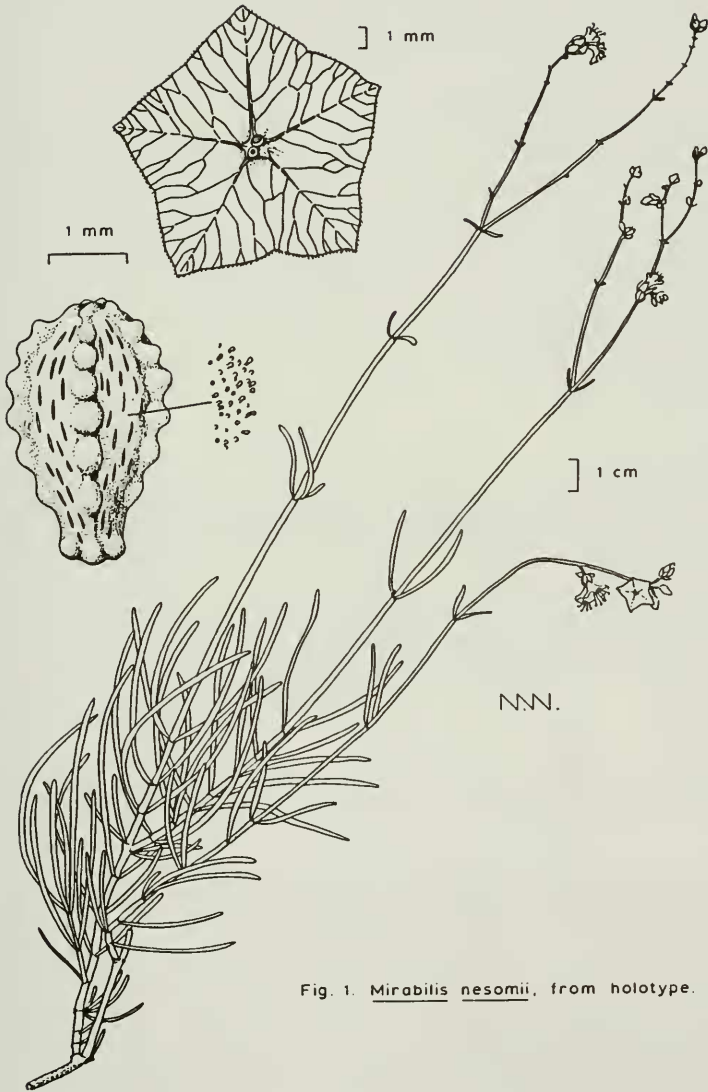


Fig. 1. *Mirabilis nesomii*, from holotype.

wide, the stamens ca. 12 mm long, exerted. Fruiting bodies (anthocarp) broadly clavate, ca. 3.5 mm long, the stipe ca. 0.6 mm long, the body with 5 tuberculate ribs, between these a very fine vestiture of minute glandular hairs.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED (Paratypes): MEXICO. Nuevo León: 2.5 km ENE of San Antonio de Peña Nevada, W base of Cerro Peña Nevada, ca. 2000 m, 3-5 Aug 1981, *Nesom 4275* (TEX, MEXU); ca. 7 km NE of San Antonio Peña Nevada, Jul 1977, *Wells & Nesom 506* (TEX, unicate).

Mirabilis nesomii Turner, with its markedly linear-lanceolate, glaucescent leaves, superficially resembles *M. linearis* (Pursh) Heimerl, but is clearly more closely related to the widespread *M. glabrifolia* (Ort.) I.M. Johnston in characters of the involucre and fruit, the latter appearing almost indistinguishable from that of *M. nesomii*. *Mirabilis nesomii* differs from *M. glabrifolia* in being a much smaller plant, with fewer flowering branches and, as noted, by having linear or linear-lanceolate leaves, mostly 1-3 mm wide (vs. ovate to cordate and 10-40 mm wide).

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